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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 INR-05 L-01 SP-01 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0228

CONFIDENTIAL KINSHASA 9898

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, CG

SUBJ: FOREIGN EXCHANGE

REF: (A) KINSHASA 9534, (B) STATE 256382, (C) STATE 257426 (D) A-198, NOV 12, 1974

- 1. DEPARTMENT HAS BRIEFED DE MUNNICK OF FNCB IN EXACTLY THE RIGHT TERMS, EMPHASIZING WHAT SEEMS TO US TO BE THE SHORT-RUN ASPECTS OF THE CURRENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE PINCH. WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SPINK HERE AND HAVE INCLUDED FNCE PAYMENT DELIQUENCIES WITH THE COMMERCE UNION AND PANAM OVERDUE PAYMENTS IN A LIST WHICH THE AMBASSADOR LEFT WITH BISENGIMANA ON NOV 21. WE SHARE FNCB'S DISQUIET OVER THE POSSIBILITY THAT ONE OF THE EUROPEAN BANKS MIGHT EXERT PRESSURE TO DECLARE DEFAULT AND ARE DOING OUR BEST TO KEEP THE GOZ ALERT TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A POSSIBILITY.
- 2. BY NOW, DEPT SHOULD HAVE A-198 WHICH GIVES DETAILS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE PINCH AS REFLECTED IN CENTRAL BANK STATISTICS THROUGH SEPTEMBER. YOUR ASSUMPTION CORRECT THAT PARA 1 REF (A) DEALT WITH FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOLDINGS. TO SUMMARIZE FROM BANK SATISTICS AS OF END SEPTEMBER, NET FOREIGN ASSETS WERE \$169 MILLION, INCLUDING \$51.2 MILLION IN GOLD VALUED AT \$35 PER OUNCE: IMF RESERVE POSITION CONFIDENTIAL

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OF \$28.2 MILLION; SDRS \$6.3 MILLION AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

HOLDINGS OF \$83.6 MILLION. FYI AS REPORTED IN REF (A), WE WERE TOLD BY AN EXCELLENT SOURCE THAT FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOLDINGS DROPPED FURTHER IN OCTOBER TO \$60 MILLION, AND FROM RUMORS WE HEAR, FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOLDINGS ARE PORBABLY LOWER IN NOVEMBER. END FYI.

3. IN ADDITION TO POSITIVE SIGNS REPORTED IN REFS (A) AND (D) WE WOULD ADD BISENGIMANS'S INTEREST AND A REPORT THAT FINANCE MINISTER BURUTI IS IN ABU DHABI "NEGOTIATING A LOAN".

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Message Attributes

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